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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kuznetsov et al.
Appl. No. : 10/009,851
Filed : November 6, 2001
For : METHOD FOR TRANSFERRING
WAFERS AND RING
Examiner : Joseph A. Dillor Jr.

Group ~~A~~ Unit 3651

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April 22, 2003

(Date)

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In an action mailed April 3, 2003, the Examiner required restriction of prosecution to one of the following groups of claims:

- Group I Claims 22-33, drawn to a method of conveying;
Group II Claims 34-46, drawn to a thermal treatment installation/ring; and
Group III Claim 47, drawn to a method of conveying.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicants elect to proceed, without traverse, with prosecution on the merits of Group II (Claims 34-46), drawn to a thermal treatment installation/ring.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for examination on the merits, and respectfully requests the same.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: April 22, 2003

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